

(ii) The physician furnishing these services must be an employee or medical director of the hospice billing for this service.

(iii) The services cannot be furnished by hospice personnel other than employed physicians, such as but not limited to nurse practitioners, nurses, or social workers, physicians under contractual arrangements with the hospice or by the beneficiary's physician, if that physician is not an employee of the hospice.

(iv) If the beneficiary's attending physician is also the medical director or a physician employee of the hospice, the attending physician may not provide nor may the hospice bill for this service because that physician already possesses the expertise necessary to furnish end-of-life evaluation and management, and counseling services.

(4) *Documentation.* (i) If the individual's physician initiates the request for services of the hospice medical director or physician, appropriate documentation is required.

(ii) The request or referral must be in writing, and the hospice medical director or physician employee is expected to provide a written note on the patient's medical record.

(iii) The hospice agency employing the physician providing these services is required to maintain a written record of the services furnished.

(iv) If the services are initiated by the beneficiary, the hospice agency is required to maintain a record of the services and documentation that communication between the hospice medical director or physician and the beneficiary's physician occurs, with the beneficiary's permission, to the extent necessary to ensure continuity of care.

[69 FR 66425, Nov. 15, 2004]

Subpart G—Payment for Hospice Care

§ 418.301 Basic rules.

(a) Medicare payment for covered hospice care is made in accordance with the method set forth in § 418.302.

(b) Medicare reimbursement to a hospice in a cap period is limited to a cap amount specified in § 418.309.

(c) The hospice may not charge a patient for services for which the patient is entitled to have payment made under Medicare or for services for which the patient would be entitled to payment, as described in § 489.21 of this chapter.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 56 FR 26919, June 12, 1991; 70 FR 70547, Nov. 22, 2005]

§ 418.302 Payment procedures for hospice care.

(a) CMS establishes payment amounts for specific categories of covered hospice care.

(b) Payment amounts are determined within each of the following categories:

(1) *Routine home care day.* A routine home care day is a day on which an individual who has elected to receive hospice care is at home and is not receiving continuous care as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) *Continuous home care day.* A continuous home care day is a day on which an individual who has elected to receive hospice care is not in an inpatient facility and receives hospice care consisting predominantly of nursing care on a continuous basis at home. Home health aide (also known as a hospice aide) or homemaker services or both may also be provided on a continuous basis. Continuous home care is only furnished during brief periods of crisis as described in § 418.204(a) and only as necessary to maintain the terminally ill patient at home.

(3) *Inpatient respite care day.* An inpatient respite care day is a day on which the individual who has elected hospice care receives care in an approved facility on a short-term basis for respite.

(4) *General inpatient care day.* A general inpatient care day is a day on which an individual who has elected hospice care receives general inpatient care in an inpatient facility for pain control or acute or chronic symptom management which cannot be managed in other settings.

(c) The payment amounts for the categories of hospice care are fixed payment rates that are established by CMS in accordance with the procedures described in § 418.306. Payment rates are determined for the following categories: